

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A contrast agent composition for use in magnetic resonance, x-ray, ultrasound and radio-diagnostic imaging comprising:

~~a metal ion, M, complexed with an organic ligand, L; and
a complex salt excipient of the formula~~

$X_m[X'(L')]_n$

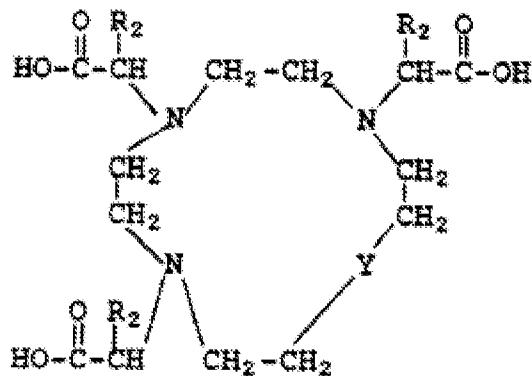
~~wherein X and X' are calcium, L' is an organic ligand which may be the same as the organic ligand of the metal chelate contrast agent or may be another organic ligand which has a greater affinity for the metal ion of the metal chelate contrast agent than for calcium or zinc, and wherein m is 1 and n is 2.; and~~

~~a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.~~

a contrast agent of the formula

M(L)

where M is a metal ion and L is an organic ligand comprising the formula

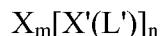


wherein

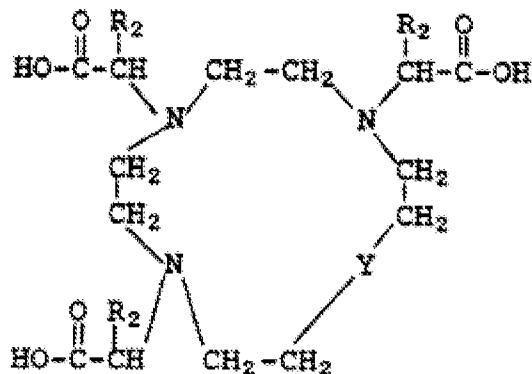


R₁ is hydroxypropyl and R₂ is methyl; and

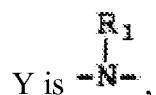
a complex salt excipient of the formula



where X and X' are calcium; L' is



wherein



R₁ is hydroxypropyl and R₂ is methyl;

m is 1 and n is 2.

10-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 9 wherein L and L' are each independently selected from 1, 4, 7, 10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7-triacetic acid, 1,4,7-tris(carboxymethyl)-10-(2'-hydroxypropyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane, N,N-bis[2-[bis(carboxymethyl)amino]ethyl]glycine, DTPA bis methylamide, 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid, DTPA bis morpholinoamide and DTPA bis 1,2-dihydroxypropylamide.

16. (Original) The composition of claim 9 wherein L and L' are the same organic ligand.

17. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 9 wherein the mole ratio of said complex salt to said ~~metal chelate~~ contrast agent is between about 0.05 and 10 percent.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 9 wherein said metal ion is selected from paramagnetic metal atoms, lanthanide series elements, yttrium, and the transition series elements.

19. (Original) The composition of claim 18 wherein said paramagnetic metals are selected from gadolinium(III), dysprosium(III), manganese(II), manganese(III), chromium(III), iron(II) and iron(III).

20. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 9 wherein said metal ion M complexed with an organic ligand L is gadolinium(III) 1,4,7-tris(carboxymethyl)-10-(2'-hydroxypropyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane and said excipient is calcium bis[1,4,7-tris(carboxy-methyl)-10-(2'-hydroxypropyl)-1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecanatocalcium(II)].

21-46 (Canceled)